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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**Fourth session**

New York, 16-27 May 2005

Agenda item 4 (a)

Ongoing priorities and themes: human rights, with special emphasis on an interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people

Draft recommendations submitted by Rapporteur**Introduction**

1. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues urges the United Nations system and States to give special priority to implementing previous recommendations made by the Permanent Forum, and to take into account the cross-cutting nature of human rights issues.
2. In the formulation of its recommendations, the Permanent Forum takes particular note of, and welcomes the statement made at the fourth session of the Permanent Forum by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, who underlined that the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals must be rooted in human rights.
3. It further welcomes and appreciates the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, Rodolfo Stavenhagen, and his continuing attention to the violations of the human rights of indigenous peoples, as well as the dialogue held with the Rapporteur during the fourth session.
4. In its deliberations, and in taking careful account of many voices heard at the fourth session, the Permanent Forum notes the importance of:
 - (a) The need for United Nations agencies and member States to implement and monitor Millennium Development Goals with an indigenous peoples and, consequently, a human rights frame of reference;
 - (b) International recognition that the adoption of the draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is a top priority of the United Nations agencies, Member States and indigenous peoples.



Recommendations

5. The Permanent Forum recommends that Member States, United Nations bodies and mechanisms, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other parts of the United Nations system strengthen the machinery to address the urgent, gross and ongoing human rights violations, militarization of indigenous lands and systemic violence committed by Member States against indigenous peoples.
6. The Permanent Forum calls upon all those Member States which have not yet done so to immediately consider ratifying the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Labour Organization Convention No. 169.
7. The Permanent Forum calls upon the United Nations Development Programme to develop an indigenous peoples-specific development index by country to take into account the social conditions and human rights situation of indigenous peoples.
8. The Permanent Forum recommends that all Member States adhere to international human rights principles and allow freedom of movement and assembly, which is now prohibited to numerous indigenous peoples globally.
9. The Permanent Forum recommends that UN-HABITAT jointly with the OHCHR, through the United Nations Housing Rights Programme, organize an expert group meeting in 2006 to review the status of the realization process of indigenous peoples' housing rights globally, and identify and document best practices and report on the outcome and recommendations of the expert group meeting at the sixth session of the Permanent Forum.
10. The Permanent Forum recommends that all Member States, with the assistance of United Nations agencies, as necessary, develop capacity-building programmes, including curricula that have a strong human rights focus, including collective rights of indigenous peoples, across the spectrum of national educational institutions.
11. The Permanent Forum recommends that Member States investigate the alarming rate of incarceration of indigenous women and communicate their findings to the Permanent Forum.
12. The Permanent Forum calls for United Nations support for more regional forums in which indigenous peoples issues may be heard, and for the establishment of specialized regional offices where such do not exist.
13. The Permanent Forum recalls its recommendation made at its third session and recommends that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to organize a meeting in collaboration with indigenous women, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and UNDP, with the objective of beginning a process to develop and adopt a general recommendation on indigenous women.
14. The Permanent Forum recommends that Member States review their constitutions with respect to the recognition of the existence and rights of indigenous peoples, with the effective participation of indigenous peoples.
15. The Permanent Forum recommends that Member States, the intergovernmental system and the private sector respect and adhere to the principle of free, prior and informed consent in all matters affecting indigenous peoples.

16. The Permanent Forum recommends that United Nations country offices make the effort to disseminate their activities in publications in indigenous languages.
17. The Permanent Forum invites the World Health Organization as lead agency on Millennium Development Goals 4, 5, and 6 with UNDP, the World Intellectual Property Organization, and other relevant agencies and States to partner with the Permanent Forum to organize, host and report to the Forum at its next session on methods, processes and best practices of integrating indigenous traditional knowledge, medicine, healing, and other health practices in mainstream health-care systems and sensitizing health personnel on protection of indigenous knowledge systems.
18. The Permanent Forum recommends that the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and their families incorporate in her report the situation of indigenous migrants, especially indigenous women and children.
19. Recommends that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination present an evaluation of the implementation of the Durban Plan of Action at the sixth session of the Permanent Forum (2007) focused on indigenous peoples, especially on indigenous women.
20. The Permanent Forum recommends that States pay special attention to the situation of uncontacted indigenous peoples, peoples in voluntary isolation, and peoples in isolated and remote localities. The Forum recommends that the Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people pay special attention in his annual reports to the situation of these peoples. The Forum also recommends that the situation of these peoples become the subject of a special international meeting during the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.